

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 5 are amended. Support for claims 1 and 5 may be found at least on page 9 lines 20-23 and page 11. Claims 1-22 remain actively pending in the case. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants' thank Examiner for taking the time to conduct and interview with Applicants' attorney on November 13, 2003. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 5 to clarify the invention.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9, 11-12 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,936,985). In paragraph 3 on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 8, 10, 13-16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,936,985) in view of Kitaoka et al. (U.S. Patent 5,960,259). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 requires at least a wavelength converting device for receiving a first light (fundamental light) and converting the first light (fundamental light) into a second light (harmonic light) having a second wavelength, wherein the wavelength of the first light (fundamental light), which passes through the wavelength converting device, is detected and controlled to a desired wavelength so that the wavelength of the second light (harmonic light) is controlled to a specific wavelength. Hence, a part of the first light (fundamental light) passes through the wavelength converting device without being converted into the second light (harmonic light) and therefore the wavelength converting device emits both the fundamental light and the harmonic light.

Yamamoto fails to teach or suggest at least a wavelength converting device converting the first light into a second light having a second wavelength, wherein the wavelength of the first light which passes through the wavelength converting device is detected and controlled to a desired wavelength, so that the wavelength of the second light is controlled to a specific wavelength as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Rather, Yamamoto merely discloses a coherent light source in which a part of a harmonic light generated by wavelength conversion is guided to

a detector 28 by a beam splitter 27. Accordingly, in Yamamoto, a wavelength of a fundamental light source is controlled so that the output of the harmonic light becomes maximum.

Kitaoka fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yamamoto. Kitaoka fails to teach or suggest at least a wavelength converting device converting the first light into a second light having a second wavelength, wherein the wavelength of the first light which passes through the wavelength converting device is detected and controlled to a desired wavelength, so that the wavelength of the second light is controlled to a specific wavelength as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Therefore, in view of the above remarks, Applicants' independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

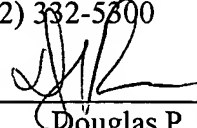
Rejected independent claim 5 recites one or more feature generally similar to those of claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, for similar reasons as discussed above, independent claim 5 is believed to be patentable over the cited references. Because claims 2-4, 6-13 and 15-16, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and claims 14 and 17-22, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 5, include the features recited in the independent claims as well as additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4 and 6-22 are also patentably distinct over the cited references. Nevertheless, Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the Office Action's rejection with respect to such dependent claims and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be addressed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612) 371-5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
(612) 332-5300

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By 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

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